

### III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1 and 3-22 remain in the application. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 3, 4, 10, 12, 14, and 22 are amended.
2. Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-17 and 19-22 are patentable over the combination of Bush et al. (US 6,397,186, "Bush") and Taylor et al. (US 5,769,527, "Taylor") under 35 USC 103(a).

The combination of Bush and Taylor fails to disclose or suggest

if the detected control information is associated with a single application device, the associated application device and the detected control information are signaled back as an announcement or indication for confirming the detected control information input, and a control corresponding to the detected control information is executed in the application device,

as substantially recited by amended claims 1, 10, 12, 14, and 22.

Bush is silent with respect to any signaling as defined by the present claims. Taylor discloses posing a question to an operator in the event that a reasoning engine cannot resolve a particular input (col. 65, line 65 -col. 66, line 7). However, Taylor has no disclosure related to signaling back an associated application device and the detected control information. Taylor never mentions signaling back an identified application device at all. Furthermore, Taylor also never mentions signaling back detected control information. Taylor simply requests further information in the event of an ambiguity but does not signal back any information at all.

Claims 2, 4-8, 11, 13, 15-17, 19 and 20 are patentable at least by reason of their respective dependencies.

3. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 18 are patentable over the combination of Bush, Taylor and Houser et al. (US 5,774,859, "Houser") under 35 USC 103(a). Claims 3 and 18 depend from claims 1 and 14. The combination of Bush and Taylor does not disclose or suggest all of the features of claims 1 and 14 for the reasons described above. As such, the combination of Bush and Taylor with Houser cannot disclose all of the features of claims 1 and

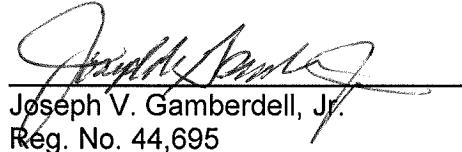
14 as well. Therefore, claims 3 and 18 are patentable at least by reason of their respective dependencies.

4. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9 is patentable over the combination of Bush, Taylor and Osawa et al. (GB 2275800, "Osawa") under 35 USC 103(a). Claim 9 depends from claim 1. The combination of Bush and Taylor does not disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 1 for the reasons described above. As such, the combination of Bush and Taylor with Osawa cannot disclose all of the features of claim 1 as well. Therefore, claim 9 is patentable at least by reason of its respective dependency.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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